

Hello, HAL!

Michigan Historical Museum System joins new state department



Dr. William M. Anderson (right), director of the new Department of History, Arts and Libraries, tours the Michigan Historical Museum with museum division director Phil Kwiatkowski and Sandra S. Clark, director of the Michigan Historical Center.

Frontier Metropolis open thru Dec. 2

Just when you were fretting that you had missed Detroit's 300th birthday party, the celebration has hit the road and is on its way to Lansing.

The Michigan Historical Museum, in collaboration with the William L. Clements Library and the Detroit Historical Museum, has produced *Frontier Metropolis: Images of Early Detroit, 1701-1838* in honor of the Motor City's tricentennial. The special exhibit is now open in the Michigan Historical Museum's first-floor gallery.

Frontier Metropolis tells the story of Detroit's early evolution from a small French settlement to the capital of the new state called Michigan. Maps and paintings show how residents and visitors viewed the city before the camera was invented. Among the rare and rarely seen artifacts--some on public display for the first time--are a 1761 powder horn and an 1830s serving platter. This may be the last chance to see these artifacts gathered in a single exhibit.

Don't forget to wish Detroit a happy birthday--stop by and tour *Frontier Metropolis* before it closes on December 2.

After more than 35 years of growth within the Michigan Department of State, the Michigan Historical Museum is embarking on a new phase of public service as part of the new Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL).

Introduced by Governor John Engler in his 2001 State of the State address, HAL took shape during the spring and summer as the Michigan Legislature crafted 19 bills to bring the state's cultural programs into a single department. Launched August 6, HAL includes the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Office of Film and Television Services and the Michigan Historical Museum and the other agencies of the Michigan Historical Center. The Library of Michigan joins the new department on October 1.

Heading HAL is Dr. William M. Anderson, retired president of West Shore Community College and past president of the Historical Society of Michigan. Anderson is also a historian and author whose passions include baseball and the Civil War.

"This is a very positive move for our museums," says Michigan Historical Museum System director Phillip Kwiatkowski. "HAL strengthens our visibility and the state's commitment to serving residents and visitors with top-quality cultural programs."

Spaniola re-elected Friends president

Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola was re-elected president of the Friends of Michigan History at the annual meeting held June 12, 2001. This is Spaniola's fifth term as president.

Spaniola is proud of the Friends' accomplishments during his tenure, including the group's support of the conservation of the four Michigan constitutions and historic maps in the State Archives of Michigan.

"We've also put on some marvelous programs," he adds. Last spring's "Dinner with the Big Three," featuring portrayals of Walter Chrysler, William Durant and Henry Ford, "excited a whole lot of folks," Spaniola says. "It was a wonderfully informative and delightfully entertaining evening."

The Corunna native's interest in history developed at a

historic places around the country. Family time also featured lively discussions about politics, so it was no surprise when the young Spaniola chose to study political science at Michigan State University.

After Spaniola graduated MSU in 1957, his mission was service to his community, the state and the nation. He was a

and a high-school government and history teacher for ten years. In 1974, Spaniola ran for the 87th District seat in the Michigan House of Representatives. During Spaniola's 16 years in the House, he focused on transportation, retirement and—of course—history issues. He drafted the legislation that led to the creation of the Michigan Railway Museum and the Michigan Maritime Museum.

Spaniola's commitment to history has not waned since he left the Michigan Legislature. A Friends member since 1996, Spaniola says he is on a "mission to build our membership. People need to know that, through the Friends, they are doing some good for the preservation of history."

Other board news

Thank you to Loranetta Diebel of Bronson for her service on the Friends board; she is replaced by new board member Charles Seeley of Lansing. Thanks also to Paul Tarr Jr. for his service as Friends secretary. Tarr remains on the board but hands the baton to E. Chris Dancisak. See page 4 of *The Museum Insider* for the complete 2001/2002 Friends board.

Letter from the Director

Phil Kwiatkowski

September is here and soon hundreds of fourth-graders will be visiting Lansing and the Michigan Historical Museum to learn more about Michigan's past. It will be a new adventure for them and a new opportunity for museum staff to make history come alive for these students.

With the new school year, we are continuing The BIG History Lesson and the Extended Experience programs and adding programs to expand our offerings to other grade levels and adult markets. One of these new programs offers mini-excursions that explore popular and significant themes found here in the museum, including "A Day in the One-Room Schoolhouse," "Who are Michigan's Native Peoples," "Michigan's Underground Railroad," "Civil Rights in Michigan," "Miners in Michigan" and "A Lumberjack's Day." Teachers who want

additional in-depth tours can work with museum staff to create individualized tours to fit what their students are studying.

We are pleased to offer the Future Historian program for middle and high-school students. This program was launched at our Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee and we know it will be equally successful in mid-Michigan. Students explore Michigan history as they learn and use interpretive techniques to assist museum staff.

These education programs are designed to provide students the opportunity to learn about the past by exploring and experiencing what it was like to live 100 years ago in Michigan. This is just the beginning of a series of programs and activities that will be introduced at the museum during the next five years. It will be an exciting, fun, learning experience.

New education programs spark kids' interest

The 2001/2002 school year is bringing innovative changes to education programs at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

After reviewing programs and gathering feedback from participants, the museum has introduced new programs to meet the diverse needs of the visiting public.

New to the education line-up is the After-School Excursion, created to serve scout troops, neighborhood groups and other organizations. Students learn the history of a traditional craft or skill--such as dipping candles and churning butter--and then try their hand at it.

"The Michigan Historical Museum is the ideal environment for children to explore and experience Michigan history," says Tami Averill, the museum's curator of education. "Our artifacts and exhibits take on a deeper meaning through the education programs. Kids really make a connection to the past here."



One of the Michigan Historical Museum's most successful education programs, The BIG History Lesson offers schoolchildren a behind-the-scenes look at museum operations. Here, collections historian Laurie Dickens introduces a group to Michigan's Civil War battle flags.

Also new this year are Saturday Morning Excursions. These mid-morning programs for school-aged children offer hands-on activities, interactive tours and entertaining programs during the school year. "We want kids to feel at home at the museum," Averill says. "As that comfort level

increases, so will kids' enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge with their peers and their community."

For more information about any Michigan Historical Museum education program, telephone Tami Averill at (517) 241-4060 or e-mail her at averillt@state.mi.us.

Join the Friends!

If your heritage is important to you, join the Friends of Michigan History today. With your membership, the Friends support the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting the state's past.

Your membership benefits include:

- A 10 percent discount at the Michigan Historical Museum Store
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- *The Museum Insider* newsletter
- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide discounts through the Time Traveler program
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

For more information, telephone (517) 373-1668.

Yes, I want to do my part to preserve Michigan's rich heritage. Please reserve my membership in the Friends of Michigan History.

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Friends to honor Pearl Harbor vets

Dan Morey was a 21-year-old seaman aboard the USS *Honolulu* when Japan attacked American naval forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. From his battle station manning an antiaircraft gun a short distance from Battleship Row, Morey watched a scene he describes as total chaos.

Nearly 60 years later, Morey will share his story as part of the 2001 Veterans Day celebration sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. The November 4 program, held at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing, will begin at 2:00 P.M. with a massing of color guards. Morey and other vets will discuss their memories of the event that drew the United States into World War II.

"It was totally unexpected and unbelievable," Morey remembers. "Planes were everywhere. Ships were on fire...oil in the water was burning everywhere."

"We were taking on survivors from the USS *Oklahoma*," the Dimondale resident continues. "The USS *Nevada* was trying to make it to open seas when it was hit and turned over. It was an awful sight to see."

Morey, like most World War II veterans, claims no heroism. "I was just a seaman...we did what we had to do under the circumstances."

Veterans Day Celebration

November 4, 2001, 2:00 P.M.

●
Michigan Library and Historical Center

●
Presented by the Friends of Michigan History and the Military Order of World Wars, Mid-Michigan Chapter

Next meeting: November 13, 2001

**Friends of Michigan History
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